

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-04 L-03 COME-00 FEA-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-07

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-----102131Z 127015 /64

R 101704Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9648

UNCLAS PARIS 04229

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, TECH, ENRG

SUBJECT: REGULATIONS GOVERNING HIGH-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE
WASTE DISPOSAL

REF: STATE 024952

1. IN FRANCE ELECTRIC POWER IS GENERATED BY A NATION-ALIZED COMPANY, ELECTRICITE DE FRANCE (EDF), WHICH INITIATES NUCLEAR PLANT PROJECTS AND CARRIES THEM THROUGH TO COMPLETION, INCLUDING OPERATION. AUTHORIZATION TO BUILD A PLANT IS REQUESTED BY EDF AND ENTAILS A SERIES OF COMPLEX INQUIRIES AND SURVEYS ON SITING, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT, INSPECTION, ETC., INVOLVING VARIOUS MINISTRIES AND LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS. A GOVERNMENT DECREE OF 1963, MODIFIED IN 1973, COVERS CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR REACTORS, AND A CIRCULAR OF 1976 OUTLINES PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC REVIEW OF PROPOSED SITES. THE DISCHARGE OF RADIOACTIVE GASEOUS AND LIQUID EFFLUENTS PRODUCED BY NUCLEAR PLANTS IS EVALUATED AS PART OF THE AUTHORIZATION PROCESS. IT IS SUBJECT TO LIMITS SET BY CONCERNED MINISTRIES AS WELL AS INSPECTIONS (DECREES OF NOVEMBER 6 AND DECEMBER 31, 1974).

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2. THERE IS A WASTE AND FUEL STORAGE FACILITY AT LA HAGUE, WHICH HAS A CAPACITY SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE PRESENT NEEDS OF THE FRENCH NUCLEAR PROGRAM. A NEW STORAGE SITE IS ENVISAGED FOR 1985. EFFORTS ARE ALSO DEVOTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MEANS FOR LONG-TERM WASTE DISPOSAL. IN THIS RESPECT, THE COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE (FRENCH ATOMIC AGENCY) HAS

DEVELOPED A TECHNIQUE FOR CASTING HIGH-LEVEL RADIO-ACTIVE WASTES IN GLASS. FINAL DISPOSAL IN DEEP GEOLOGICAL STRATA IS BEING CONSIDERED AND STUDIED.

3. FRANCE HAS A REPROCESSING FACILITY AT LA HAGUE WHICH WILL REACH A CAPACITY OF 800 TONS PER YEAR BY 1981. CURRENT PLANS ARE TO EXPAND THIS FACILITY TO REACH 1500 TONS PER YEAR BY EARLY 1990. THE PLANT HAS BEEN REPROCESSING AND HAS THE CAPABILITY TO REPROCESS THE FUEL FROM NATURAL URANIUM/GRAPHITE GAS REACTORS. A NEW UNIT STARTED OPERATION LAST YEAR FOR REPROCESSING OF FUEL CURRENTLY USED IN LIGHT WATER REACTORS.

4. IN A RECENTLY CONCLUDED TRILATERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE IAEA AND SOUTH AFRICA REGARDING THE SALE OF A PWR, FRANCE REQUIRES THE EXPORT FROM SOUTH AFRICA OF SPENT FUEL FOR REPROCESSING.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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